



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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April 3, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inmates called to assist with grass fire near Aberdeen

(Pierre) – State prison inmates are assisting with efforts to help contain a grass fire in northeastern South Dakota.

Twenty-five inmates from the Redfield Trusty Unit and twenty inmates from the Yankton Trusty Unit are being deployed to the scene near Tacoma Park, east of Aberdeen.

The inmates and supervising staff are part of the Department of Corrections Emergency Response team. Each DOC Unit has inmates and staff that have been specifically trained and are equipped to respond to an emergency call at any time of day. The DOC Emergency Response teams have a disaster response trailer that is fully supplied with chain saws, generator, power and hand tools, shovels, rakes and other equipment necessary for disaster response.

Fifteen of the inmates from Yankton are trained firefighters and will assist with fire suppression efforts.

This is the second natural disaster that DOC crews have been called to in the last two days. On Friday, inmates and staff from the Rapid City Trusty Unit were called to fight a fire near Wind Cave in the Southern Black Hills.